

Message Text

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21

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12

NEA-10 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 XMB-02 /135 W

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R 180610Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6959

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE

REFS: (A) GENEVA 682; (B) STATE 32572

1. AS REQUESTED REFTELS, ECMIN CALLED ON SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU AT FOREIGN OFFICE TO URGE THAT GOJ SUPPLY ADEQUATE DESCRIPTIONS ON COMPUTER TAPE FOR TARIFF RATE INFO FILE (TRIF), NOTING THAT IF GOJ UNABLE SUPPLY, U.S. WILL FURNISH ONLY TRIF WITHOUT PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY REPS ASSURED US THEY WOULD TAKE OUR REPRESENTATIONS INTO ACCOUNT BUT THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY STUDIED AND THAT SO FAR AS FORNMIN COULD ASCERTAIN, TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES PREVENTED COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. WISHES. THEY SAID THEY HAD PROPOSED TO MITI THAT ATTEMPT BE MADE BUT HAD BEEN CONVINCED THAT SO MANY INACCURACIES WOULD APPEAR THAT END PRODUCT WOULD BE USELESS.

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THEY NOTED THAT MANY TEMPORARY RATES WERE IN EFFECT WHICH

SIMPLY COULD NOT BE DESCRIBED IN ONE HUNDRED CHARACTERS ON COMPUTER TAPE. THEY MADE CLEAR THAT ALL DATA WAS AVAILABLE IN PRINTED DOCUMENTS, SO PROBLEM WAS EXCLUSIVELY TECHNICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF PUTTING DESCRIPTIONS ON TAPE.

3. TO OUR UNTRAINED EYES, EXAMPLES CITED FROM PAGES 83-85 OF JAPANESE TARIFF SCHEDULE WOULD INDEED BE HARD TO DESCRIBE WITHIN ONE HUNDRED CHARACTER LIMITATION. WE URGED FONOFF TO MAKE CERTAIN USDEL GENEVA UNDERSTOOD JAPANESE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

4. ECON COUNS TOOK UP MATTER IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH GATT DIV DIRECTOR HAYASHI. LATTER WAS UP UNTIL THEN APPARENTLY UNAWARE THAT WE MIGHT DECIDE TO EXCHANGE TAPES WITHOUT DESCRIPTIONS ON OUR SET EITHER. HE ASKED THAT WE ACCEPT LONGER PRINTED DESCRIPTIONS FROM JAPANESE SIDE AS BEST AVAILABLE FROM THEM UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT WE NOT DELETE DESCRIPTIONS FROM OUR TAPE.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD WAIT A FEW DAYS TO SEE WHETHER EXPERTS IN GENEVA CAN ASSURE EACH OTHER THAT THERE IS COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. IF GENEVA AND WASHINGTON THEN CONVINCED FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS MIGHT BE PRODUCTIVE, WE WILL RETURN TO THE FRAY.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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